



City of Sioux Falls

S O U T H D A K O T A

P.O. Box 7402, Sioux Falls, SD 57117-7402

May 16, 2019

Sent to: City News Release Email Distribution List

Re: City Attorney Statement

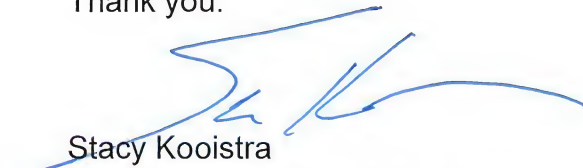
The City Attorney's Office is responsible for providing legal advice to the Mayor, City Council and City employees. This includes circumstances where the City is or may be involved in legal action in the form of contested litigation.

When litigation is pending, or even contemplated, there are important rules, policies and procedures, both legal and contractual, that are triggered in order to protect the City's best interests. These rules, policies and procedures require treating information differently than when litigation is not pending or contemplated. Protecting those interests may at times require a delay or limit in releasing information. It may also mandate refraining from, and even declining, the opportunity to make public statements.

The public should in no way confuse the protection of information under such circumstances with apathy, a lack of diligence or a lack of transparency. To the contrary, a lack of response can be the hallmark of subordinating individual interests to those of the City.

Conversely, parties whose interests are opposed to those of the City may at times choose to publicly release carefully selected, yet partial or simply inaccurate, information. Publicly responding to, or even correcting, this information is not in the City's best interests. Such information is, however, maintained by the City and preserved for future use consistent with the City's best interests.

Thank you.



Stacy Kooistra
City Attorney, City of Sioux Falls